

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. This Reply is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the Office action dated April 7, 2005.

Amendments

Claims 1 - 48 have been canceled. New claims 49 – 54 have been added.

Summary of Substance of Telephone Interview

Applicant thanks the Office's representative, Marc R. Filipczyk, for participating in a telephone interview on March 25, 2005 with Applicant's representative John Campa to discuss U.S. Patent No. 6,026,391 to Osborn et al. ("Osborn"). During the interview, Applicant's representative described distinctions between various claims of the present application and Osborn. The Office suggested various claim amendments.

Additionally, the Office issued a restriction requirement during the interview restricting claims 1-10, 35-36 and 42-48 into two groups, which is discussed in further detail below.

Restriction Requirement

The Office issued a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 grouping claims 1-10, 35, and 36 into a Group I and grouping claims 42-48 into a Group II. The undersigned hereby formally elects Group I, containing claims 1-10, 35, and 36, without traversal.

Objections

The Office has objected to claims 1-6, 35 and 36 for containing informalities. While the Office does not explicitly state what the informalities are, the Office suggests amending independent claim 1 and 35 to change the preambles of the claims to recite a "computer implemented method", rather than a "method". As noted in the Office action, this change was requested to "clarify

that the method is used by a computer.” Claims 1-6, 35 and 36 have been canceled. As such, the objection is now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-10, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-10, 35 and 36 have been canceled. As such, the rejections of 1-10, 35 and 36 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph are now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Osborn et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,026,391].

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9 have been canceled. As such, the rejections of 1-10, 35 and 36 under 35 USC §102(e) are now moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3, 4, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osborn and Acharya et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,026,391].

Claims 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osborn and Lohman et al. [U.S. Patent No. 6,356,889].

Claims 10 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Osborn alone.

Claims 3 – 5, 8, 10, and 35 – 36 have all been canceled. As such, the outstanding 103(a) rejections of claim 3 – 5, 8, 10, and 35 – 36 are now moot.

New Claims

New claims 49 – 54 have been added. These new claims are believed to be patentable over all of the prior cited references, either alone or in combination.

Conclusion

Claims 49 – 54 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application.

Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,
Microsoft Corporation

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